

Page 4

*Ag
B
conclude*

59. The reformer of claim 57 wherein the third catalyst includes ferrous oxide and chromium oxide.

60. The reformer of claim 59 wherein the third catalyst is further selected from a group consisting of copper, iron silicide, platinum, palladium, and combinations thereof.

61. The reformer of claim 57 further comprising a flow distribution region adapted for receiving the third reaction reformat from the first vessel and directing the third reaction reformat into the second vessel.

REMARKS

Independent Claim 45 has been retained for purposes of this filing. Claims 46-61 have been added. No new matter has been added to the application by these amendments.

It is respectfully submitted that the currently pending claim is believed to be in condition for allowance. Notice to this effect at the examiner's earliest convenience is earnestly sought.

Respectfully submitted,

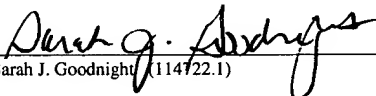
Dated: February 2, 2001

By: 

Robert W. Diehl, Reg. No. 35,118
Customer No. 26851
Wallenstein & Wagner, Ltd.
311 South Wacker Drive, 53rd Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60606-6622
312.554.3300

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper and the above documents are being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: Box Patent Application, Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on February 2, 2001.


Sarah J. Goodnight (114722.1)

ATTACHMENT– Marked-up Claims

45. (Amended) A reformer for converting a hydrocarbon fuel [including a first fuel and second fuel] into hydrogen gas and carbon dioxide, comprising:

[a)] a first tube[, wherein said first tube has a first tube inlet] including a first catalyst and adapted for receiving a first mixture of steam [and a second fuel] and a first tube outlet for conducting a first reaction reformat of said first mixture;

[b)] a second tube[,] annularly disposed about the first tube[, wherein said second tube has a second tube inlet] and adapted for receiving a second mixture of [a first fuel and] an oxygen-containing gas[, said second tube having a second tube outlet for conducting a second reaction reformat of said second mixture;] and a second fuel; and,

[c,] [a catalyst reforming zone] a third tube annularly disposed about the second tube[, wherein the] and adapted for receiving a first reaction reformat from the first tube and a second reaction reformat from the second tube, [can be conducted through the first tube outlet and second tube outlet, respectively, to the catalyst reforming zone for further reforming of said mixture] and for producing a third reaction reformat.